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United States Dept. of Transportation
Docket Management Facility (OST-2000-8013) - 27
400 Seventh Street SW, Room PL-401
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Dept. of Transportation

I am writing in regard to docket OST-200-8013. This issue is concerning changing Mercer County in North Dakota from Mountain Time to Central Time.

We are against this change for several reasons.

1. Our grandchildren ride the school bus, and they get on the bus at 7:40. Now it gets light at 6:30. (For example, if we were to change to Central Time it wouldn't get light until 7:30). It would just be getting light when they were getting on the bus, why do we want our young children starting school in the dark. You wait another month or more, and it won't get light until after 7MT, that is 8CT. So the kids will be starting school in the dark. There is more to school than extra-curricular activities. School itself is much more important to the children, than the sports. Why change the time **just** for sports activities. By changing the time, the kids will be starting school in the dark, when it is dark, everyone is tired, and it is hard to study and concentrate.
2. Yes, like the petition says the television, transportation, newspaper and everything is on Central Time, but it always has been and never was a problem. We get our nightly news and weather at 9:00MT. Which is 10:00 if you live in the Bismarck-Mandan area. We don't want to stay up that late. We always have gotten up early, and gone to be early, why do we want to stay up late now. We have always watched the news and weather at 9. Our newspaper and mail comes from Bismarck, but we have our newspaper at 6:00 in the morning now, if it were Central Time we wouldn't get it until 7:00. The paper is delivered from Bismarck. The hour difference is a big advantage for this, making it possible to get the paper early. Our mail also comes from Bismarck, now we don't get it until after 12:00 MT. That would be 1:00 CT, what good does it do to get your mail in the afternoon. During Christmas time the mail is later yet. For airplanes they do depart on Central Time, but they always have, and everyone knows it and nobody has problems getting down there on time. **Again Why change**, the 1 hour gives us many opportunities to getting our mail at a decent time, getting the newspaper at 6, like they tell you when you order it.
3. Yes, Many of the Power Plants in the area do run on Central Time which is because the main offices to these businesses are located in Bismarck. But when those employees get off work they still have time to do shopping in town, doctor in town, etc. If we were to change to Central Time these employees would not be able to do anything in town anymore. There are enough dying towns in the area, why make more. The local businesses would have to stay open 1 hour longer to

suite the plant workers. And if they do not, (many places in town have already stated, they will still close on normal time) then some of them will no longer be able to stay open, because they workers will have to travel 28 miles to the closest town, (which will still be on Mountain Time). Again where is the advantage to the town's businesses.

4. We are retired farmers, and I feel sorry for the farmers if the Time change goes through. As farmers you work in the field until dark, if we were to change it would not get dark in the summer until 11:00 Central Time. And all the businesses would close at 5:30. So when a farmer would break down, he would have to quit, with still many daylight working hours left. . Many farmers, if they broke down at 6CT, could still run the 28 miles to the closest town on Mountain Time and buy their parts, to continue to go, This would only hurt the Mercer County businesses. Why do we want to hurt our Businesses, when we usually try to do our business locally to help them stay open. We also used the sun to tell time. You can look at the location of the sun and know approximately what time it is, you can not do this on Central Time, maybe the people who live in Minnesota can, but not this far west. What good would changing the time be, It would hurt the farmers, and the businesses. This is a farming area.
5. We doctor a lot in Bismarck, and have to travel. But we don't have any problem converting the time, we have done it all our lives, and it is no big deal. If we have a 9:00 appointment we know that is 8:00 MT, and get up and leave when we have to, no big deal.
6. I also feel that if you change the time, the children will have more hours of daylight after school to get into trouble. Their parents will be working longer, and the kids will be home alone, unsupervised, and who know what kind of trouble they will get into.
7. If you change us to Central Time, it will be even more confusing. We would leave home on Central Time, go through a county that is still on Mountain Time, and then enter a county that is Central Time again. Why change? It will be even more confusing for people to figure out What county is What Time. Everyone has always known that south and west of the Missouri river is Mountain Time, and North and East is Central Time. Why try to make it even more confusing.

You have to have the Time changes someplace, why change it. It has worked for over 70 years. Why change something that is working.

Sincerely

Steve and Coleta Hoepfner

Steve Hoepfner

Coleta Hoepfner